



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

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VENEZUELAN MILITARY CALLS FOR CHAVEZ RESIGNATION

- (SBU) Eleven senior military officers (two army generals, three air force generals, three admirals, and three national guard generals), led by Admiral Ramirez, released a video tape that demanded Chavez's resignation, confirms the Embassy. In a separate televised address, General Martinez of the National Guard also called for the President to resign. Army Commanding General Velasco also made a televised statement calling for the Chavez to step down, saying the military was supporting the people and was not committing a coup. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon, Globovision)*
- (SBU) Pro-Chavez armored units from Fuerte Tiuna and El Pariso army barracks have deployed in front of the Miraflores compound. A second armored column led by anti-Chavez soldiers from the Maracay military barracks were stopped one-hour from Caracas by pro-Chavez forces. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon)*
- (SBU) Four flights departed La Carlota airport in downtown Caracas. Individuals seen boarding the planes carried large amounts of luggage. The first lady and Minister of Defense Rangel were rumored to be aboard one of the flights. Minister of Labor Isturis said Chavez had not left the country and remained at Miraflores. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon)*
- (U) Demands for Chavez's resignation followed protests of 150,000 - 500,000 opposition demonstrators outside the Miraflores presidential compound, confirms the Embassy. Fighting between protestors and supporters of Chavez continued as national guard troops attempted to separate the groups. Up to 30 are reported dead and over 100 were wounded in the clashes. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon, Reuters, CNN en Espanol)*
- (C) Prominent opposition politician Enrique Mendoza, Governor of the Miranda State, was hospitalized following exposure to tear gas. *(Caracas 980)*
- (SBU) Military units surrounded local television stations and stopped broadcasts intermittently, confirms the Embassy. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon)*

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